

# **SPIRITUAL DEPRESSION – ITS CAUSES AND CURE**

## **CHAPTER 9 – LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD**

### **I. REVIEW AND INTRO**

### **II. CONTINUING IN THE CORRECT WAY**

*though we have started correctly and are in the Christian life, though we have heeded the warnings about the initial difficulties-yet if we do not continue, if we do not maintain our course in the same way, we shall soon get into trouble.*

#### **A. JOHN 8:30-32**

### **III. THE PARABLE**

#### **A. WRONG WAYS TO INTERPRET/APPLY**

##### **I. 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR**

*I need not worry about my salvation now; I will do so at the eleventh hour, like the people who went in at the eleventh hour and got paid the same as those who had started early in the morning'. There is no more fatal mistake than this. As Bishop Ryle says of the dying thief: 'Few are ever saved on their deathbeds. One thief on the cross was saved that none should despair; but only one, that none should presume'*

##### **II. ALLEGORY**

*Our Lord spoke a whole series of parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. You cannot see it all in one. One shows one aspect and another another; they are all complementary, and each one is meant to convey one aspect of truth only. We must be very careful, therefore, that we do not turn the details into some kind of allegorical representation of the truth.*

#### **B. “FOR”**

##### **I. RESPONSE TO PETER - MATT 19:27-30**

*He repeats this statement about 'many that are first shall be last and the last shall be first.' You get it at the beginning and you get it at the end.*

#### **C. LAST TIME WE USED THIS PARABLE – WE FOCUSED ON THE LAST GROUP. THIS TIME IT IS THE FIRST GROUP**

##### **I. START IN THE RIGHT WAY BUT GOT INTO TROUBLE - GALATIANS 5:7**

#### **D. THE WRONG ATTITUDE TOWARD THEMSELVES AND THEIR WORK**

##### **I. AN AGREEMENT**

##### **II. MEASURING THEMSELVES AND OTHERS**

*They were keeping an account of the others also, and keeping a careful record of all they did and how long they had been working, as well as how many hours they themselves had spent and how much they themselves had done-'the heat and burden of the day'. They knew it all in detail and kept a careful record and account of it. That is our Lord's first statement about these people. Let us pause with that for a moment and let it sink deeply into us. Our Lord is concerned to denounce that attitude. It is fatal in the Kingdom of God. He detected it in Peter's statement. 'We have left all and followed Thee, what do we get?' The suggestion of bargain and demand is implicit there. The fundamental attitude is so wrong and so entirely antithetical to the realm of the Spirit and of the Kingdom*

#### **1. COMPARE TO PETER IN MATT 19**

#### **2. SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT AND DESERVING OF MORE**

### **III. MURMURING – PHIL 2:14-16**

*But how true it is that Christian people can be guilty of this very thing that our Lord here depicts-this tendency to murmur as the children of Israel did of old, and as these people did at this point, commiserating with yourself, feeling you are not having your rights, feeling you are being dealt with harshly... What a tragic thing it is that Christian people can be miserable and murmuring instead of rejoicing in Christ Jesus. It is an outcome of the fact that they have forgotten that everything is of grace. They have forgotten this great principle that goes right through the Christian life from the very beginning to the very end.*

### **IV. CONTEMPT OF OTHERS**

*This tendency comes in and attacks Christian people who have been faithful in their witness and who have done most excellent work. It comes in most subtle ways and makes them miserable because they feel that others have been rewarded in a greater way than they have.*

#### **E. SELF**

*What a miserable thing self is, what an ugly thing, what a foul thing. We are all guilty, of this, everyone of us, in some shape or form. The devil comes to us and we listen, and we begin to doubt whether God is just and righteous in His dealings with us. Self needs to be exposed for what it is. Sin in its ugliness and foulness needs to be unmasked. It is not surprising that our Lord dealt with this wrong spirit in the way He did in this parable. It is the greatest enemy of the soul, and it leads to misery and unhappiness.*

### **IV. THE CURE**

#### **A. UNIQUENESS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

*We must say to ourselves every day of our lives: 'Now I am a Christian, and because I am a Christian I am in the Kingdom of God and all my thinking has got to be different. Everything here is different. I must not bring with me those old ideas, those old moods and concepts of thought'. We tend to confine salvation to one thing, namely to forgiveness, but we have to apply the principle throughout the Christian life.*

##### **I. BARGAINS AND RIGHTS**

##### **II. PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS?**

##### **III. WHAT ABOUT 2 COR 5:10, 1 COR 3:8 AND LUKE 12:47-48**

#### **B. STRIKE A BARGAIN THAT MIGHT BE WHAT YOU GET AND NO MORE (MATT 6)**

#### **C. DON'T KEEP RECORDS – GOD IS ALREADY DOING THAT**

##### **I. MATT 25:34-39**

#### **D. REJOICE AT THE GRACE THAT IS SHOWN**

*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus'. You see what that means. He did not look at Himself, He did not consider Himself and His own interests only; He made Himself of no reputation, He laid aside the insignia of His eternal glory. He did not regard His equality with God as something to hold on to and say: 'Come what may I will not let it go'. Not at all, He laid it aside, He humbled Himself, He forgot Himself, and He went through and endured and did all He did, looking only to the glory of God. Nothing else mattered to Him but that the Father should be glorified and that men and women should come to the Father...It is grace at the beginning, grace at the end. So that when you and I come to lie upon our deathbeds, the one thing that should comfort and help and strengthen us there is the thing that helped us at the beginning. Not what we have been, not what we have done, but the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Christian life starts with grace, it must continue with grace, it ends with grace. Grace, wondrous grace. 'By the grace of God I am what I am.' 'Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.'*